

It is therefore believed that all of the foregoing rejections have been overcome, and said rejections should now be withdrawn.

In view of the present remarks it is believed that claims 1, 2 and 4, 6 - 10 and 12 - 26 are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of said claims by the Examiner is respectfully requested and the allowance thereof is courteously solicited.

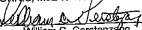
CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If any extension of time for this response is required, Appellants request that this be considered a petition therefor. Please charge the required petition fee to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

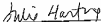
Please charge any insufficiency of fee or credit any excess to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,
NORRIS, McLAUGHLIN & MARCUS

By 
William C. Gerstenzang
Reg. No. 27,552

WCG:tmh
220 East 42nd Street - 30th Floor
New York, New York 10017
(212) 808-0700

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
transmitted via facsimile addressed to Hon.
Assistant Commissioner For Patents, Washington,
D.C. 20231 on February 5, 2004.


Julie Harting

Date: February 5, 2004